



CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT

Eriogonum fasciculatum (erion means woolly and gonu is knee or joint; flowers are in fascicles.)

Why it Was Chosen to Reseed Wildfire Burned Areas:

- California buckwheat is a native, evergreen shrub that performs well on dry, erosive slopes.
- It provides biodiversity and wildlife values to the landscape.
- Its showy white flowers and mature bronze seed heads add color to the landscape.

How Much to Use:

On wildfire burn areas, use 1 - 2 pounds per acre as part of a mixture. Seed germination is quite variable, so buying good quality seed is important. If germination is less than 25 percent, double the seeding rate.

Homeowners may need to buy this seed from specialty seed suppliers. Use 4 to 8 ounces of seed for a 10,000 square foot area.

When using container plants, set plants three feet apart.

Other Uses in California:

California buckwheat has shown excellent performance on critical areas and problem soils, such as serpentine, decomposed granites and high pH.

It is a good bee plant and excellent wildlife browse plant.

CALTRANS has used it for erosion control on highway slopes in southern California.

Background:

In 1983, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the California Agricultural Experiment Station released a strain of California buckwheat called Duro. It is a blend of six collections from various locations in California. However, most of the commercial seed available has been collected from numerous locations in California.

Insights for Homeowners:

This plant is slow to establish from seed compared to the annual or perennial grasses or forbs. Container plants are usually available from local nurseries and many carry the lower growing cultivars that would produce less fire hazard. Plants are short-lived, but readily reseed themselves. Mature seedheads can be trimmed at the end of the growing season.

What it Looks Like



A mounding shrub that grows to 3 feet high and produces bundles of flowers on naked stalks.

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